

Remarks

Claims 26-34 and 36-52 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 26, 48 and 50 and cancelled claim 35 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner indicated that claim 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claim 26 to recite the subject matter of claim 35. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 26 and claims 27-34 and 36-47, which depend from claim 26 are allowable.

Applicants have amended claims 48 and 50 along the lines of claim 26. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 48 and 50 and claims 49 and 51, which depend therefrom, should be allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 26, 31-34, and 36-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 3,565,009 to Allred in view of U.S. patent 5,229,542 to Bryan et al. The Examiner rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allred in view of Bryan et al. and further in view of U.S. patent 4,655,139 to Wilhelm. The Examiner rejected claims 28, 29 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allred in view of Bryan et al. and further in view of U.S. patent 2,944,763 to Grandgent et al.

In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that these rejections are

moot and respectfully request their withdrawal.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this case and issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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